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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1338
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RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 1550
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RUEAMDA/MDA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
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SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON NORTH KOREAN
MISSILE LAUNCH

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¶1. In a televised interview on April 7, Foreign Minister Stephen Smith called the April 5 North Korean launch of a Taepo-dong 2 missile "deeply and gravely concerning" and charged North Korea with being in breach of UN Security Council Resolution 1718. He said he had spoken with South Korean Foreign Minister Yu and Japanese Foreign Minister Nakasone on April 6, offering Australia's support for their efforts to see a strong resolution from the UN Security Council that reflected the international community's concern.

¶2. Smith said a new UNSC resolution needed to contain a strong reaffirmation of UNSCR 1718, and that the international community needed to look at what further can be done in terms of sanctions. Noting that Australia had fully implemented the sanctions envisaged under UNSCR 1718, Smith called on other countries that were not yet fully implementing UN sanctions to do so. Smith's comments echoed remarks made in the hours following the launch by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who termed the North Korean action "reckless."

RICHE